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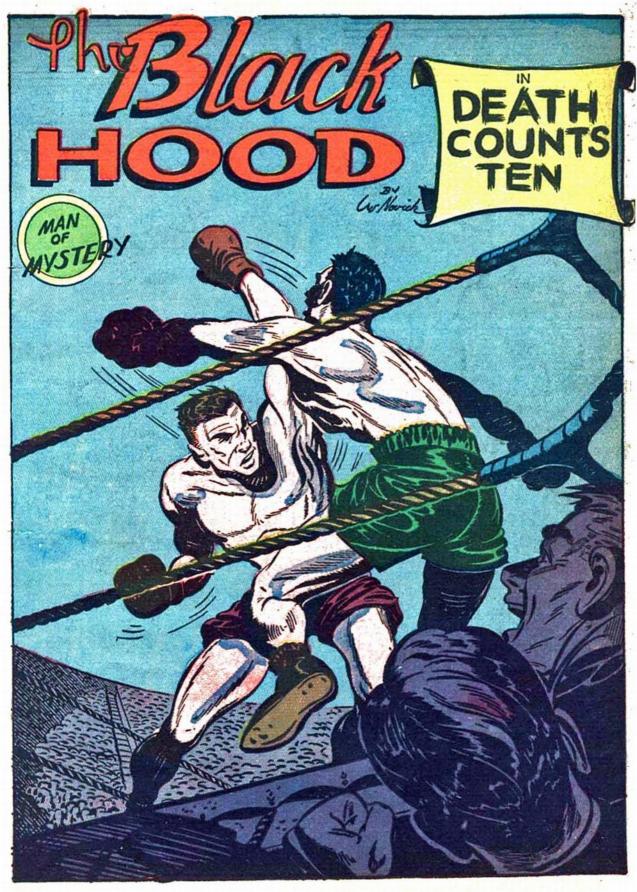
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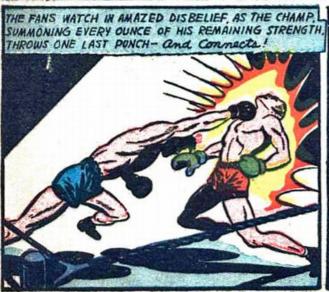
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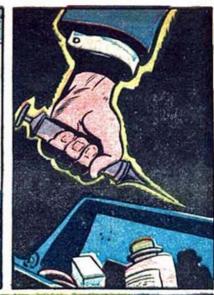




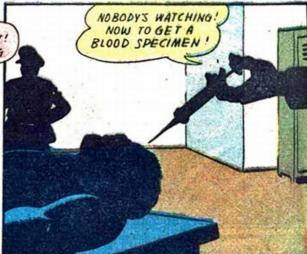










































































WHO'S ON HIS WAY

OUT ! LISTEN KID.







MARTY

MALONE! I



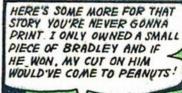














































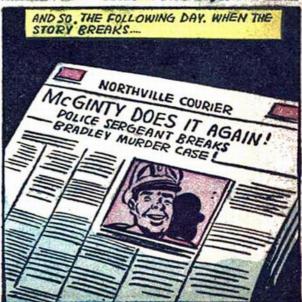














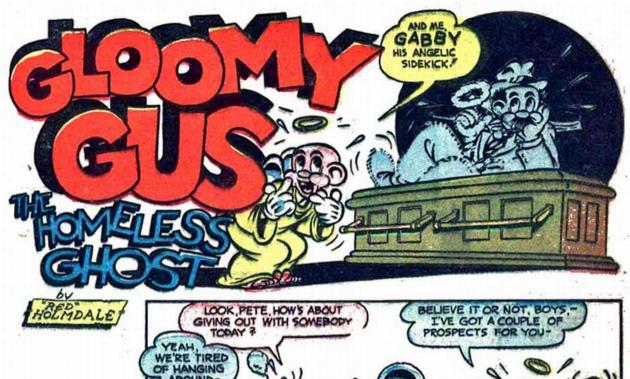














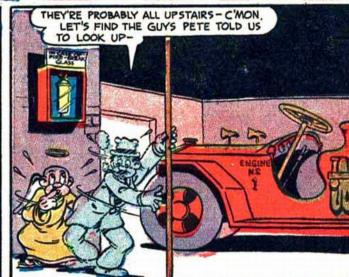






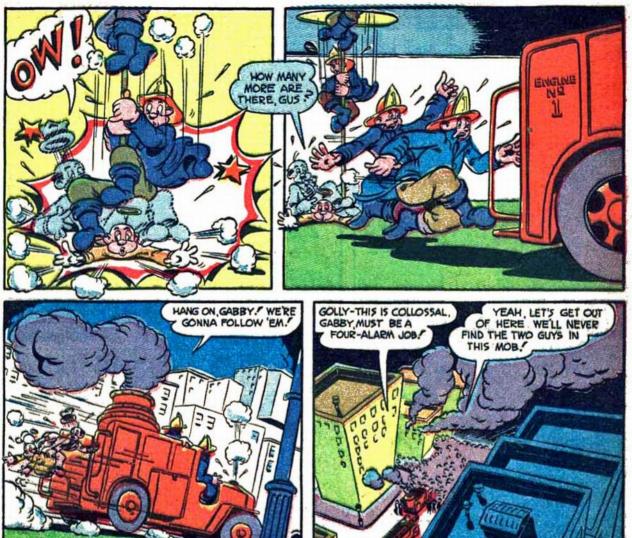




















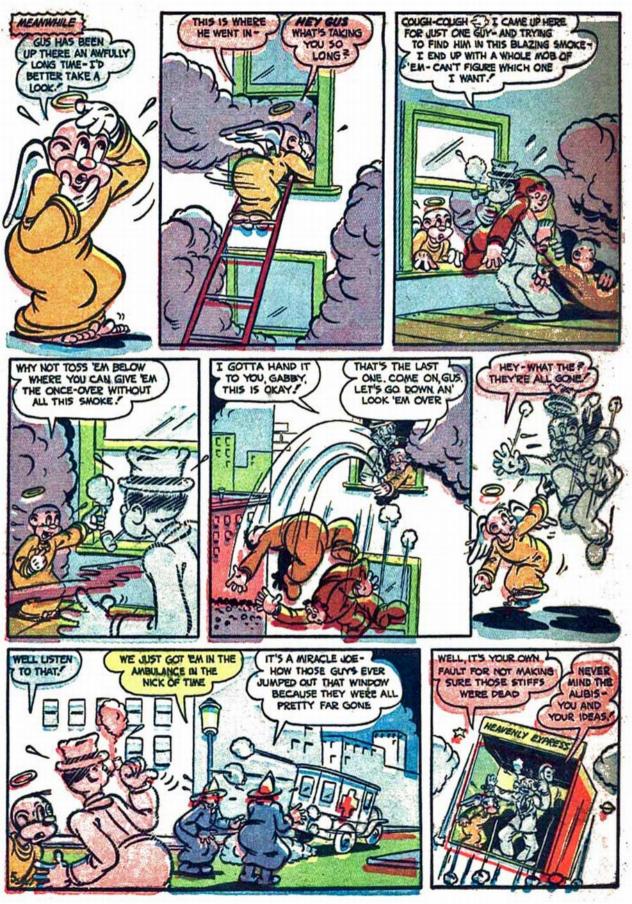
















Qua pang

1 2 2 D







































I GAVE YOU YOUR CHANCE FOR A COMEBACK, AND YOU REPAY
ME BY GETTING DRUNK AND RUINING THE ENTIRE
FIRST ACT!



-BUT ALMOST KILLING A MAN IS THE LAST STRAW-YOU'RE REALLY THROUGH, NOW, PAGINI-THAT CROW HAD THE RIGHT IDEA-YOUR VOICE **DOES** SOUND LIKE A CROW'S!







PAGINI DESCENDS INTO THE













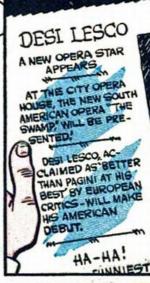


























































# MURDER BY PROXY

## A BLACK HOOD STORY

## by S. GORDON JAMES

LD Gregory Michaels walked out of the doctor's office, his aged shoulders more stooped than usual, and a hard desperate look in his virulent eyes. Old Gregory was not a kindly man, even at his best. At this moment, he was feeling far from his best. He climbed into the front seat of his waiting car, and started uphis motor.

Violently, the car shot forward, gained speed, and soon was careening through the streets at a dangerous speed. A dog was ambling across. Michaels could not possibly have failed to see it, and yet his foot did not ease an inch on the accelerator.

At the last split second, a blue-uniformed figure shot out from seemingly nowhere, and scooped up the small pup a split second before the car could strike.

Quickly, patrolman K i p Burland wheeled to get the license number of the fleeing car. But it was too late. It had already turned a corner, and was out of sight.

"Of all the rotten, inhuman

things I've ever seen," he muttered savagely.

Fortunately, he had seen the old man coming out of the doctor's office, and so decided to pay a call on the doctor, himself.

Gregory Michaels entered his house, and looked malevolently at the man and woman who awaited him. The woman was his wife, Gloria. Very young, considering her husband's age. And very attractive. The man was John Malcolm, Michaels' attorney. It was the latter who spoke first. "I got your message just a while ago, and hurried over here as fast as I could, Gregory!"

"And as usual, you got here before I did," Michaels sneered. "I hope my devoted wife found your company entertaining... as she usually does."

Gloria flushed.

"That's a rotten thing to say," Malcolm retorted hotly. "Yes. I love your wife. And I've never made any secret of it, But she's always been faithful to you. More so than you deserve, you sour old cad. Now just what was it you wanted me for? You know I don't want to be your attorney any longer."

"I told you I wanted my will changed, didn't I? Well, I've changed my mind. Gloria will be my beneficiary after all."

Gloria gasped and Malcolm goggled in amazement. But before either could speak, Michaels turned and walked out of the room. "Well, good night," he yawned. "I'm tired and I'm going to bed."

It was shortly after that, that the grim figure of the Black Hood approached the Michaels mansion. Just then, a horrible shriek pierced the night. It came from a bedroom window, upstairs.

Like a panther, the Hood streaked into the house, and up the steps. He burst into the bedroom, and there, slumped on the floor, by his desk, was the figure of Gregory Michaels. And standing over him were his wife, and John Malcolm, the attorney. Quickly, the Hood bent down to examine the corpse, saw the glass from which he had ap-

glass from which he had apparently been drinking, but which was now on the floor, shattered . . . and also saw a

shattered . . . and also saw a tightly clenched fist. He pried it open, and there was a note which consisted of a single word, an ominous word, scrawled so badly that it

word, an ominous word, scrawled so badly that it was hardly decipherable. It read, 'MURDER'!

"All right, Mrs Michaels,"

he turned to the cowering woman. "What's your story?" "I... I was downstairs with Mr. Malcolm, my hus-

band's attorney," she stammered. "Then Gregory called me. I came up, and he asked me for a drink. I gave it to him, and left. That's all I

know."

"That's the truth," Malcolm started to blurt.

"I know more of the truth than you think, Mr. Malcolm," the Hood retorted grimly. "For instance, I know the murderer

In a flash, Malcolm Jeaped

of Gregory Michaels."

forward anad crashed through the French windows. But quick as he was, the Black. Hood was quicker. He intercepted him before he could hurdle the balcony onto the lawn below. There was a short struggle. Then the Hood press-

ed a nerve center in back of Malcolm's neck, and be slumped down, as though paralyzed.

"All right. You've got me," he snarled when he was able to speak. "I did it. And I'm glad I did. The world is well rid of that old curmudgeon."

"I agree with you on the last, Mr. Malcolm. But not on the first. You're lying to protect Mrs. Michaels. You think she killed her husband. But I can assure you . . . SHE DID.

"You mean," John Malcolm gasped.

"You mean—" Gloria

NOT!"

"That he murdered himself. Or more technically, com-

mitted suicide. You see, I had

occasion to question a doctor whom Mr. Michaels visited a short while ago. The doctor informed me that he had just given Mr. Michaels a short time to live. A VERY SHORT TIME! Then the doctor noticed a strange thing. A bottle of

potassium ferrocyanide was

missing . . . the same type of

poison which was in that broken glass. I put two and two together, and decided that this called for a professional visit. Apparently I got here too late to stop him. But soon

late to stop him. But soon enough to prevent either of you from incriminating yourselves."

"And I almost played right

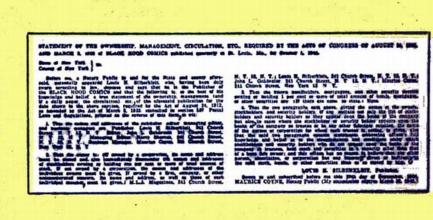
into his hands," Malcolm groaned.

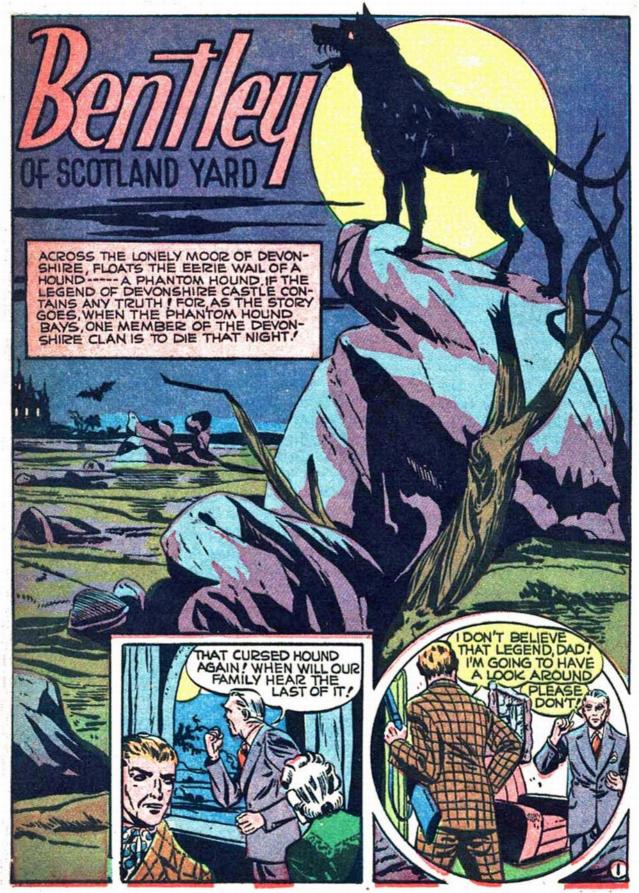
"Yes," the hood conunued.
"Without asking too many per-

sonal questions, I can see what

your feelings are for Mrs. Michaels." Malcolm withdrew his arm guiltily from about Gloria's shoulders. "No doubt Michaels knew it too. And this was his way of revenging himself. Taking his own life, which he was going to lose anyway, with the hope of taking yours too.

"And he might have gotten away with it," the Hood went on, as though talking to himself, "if he hadn't been mean enough to be indifferent to a dog's life."



























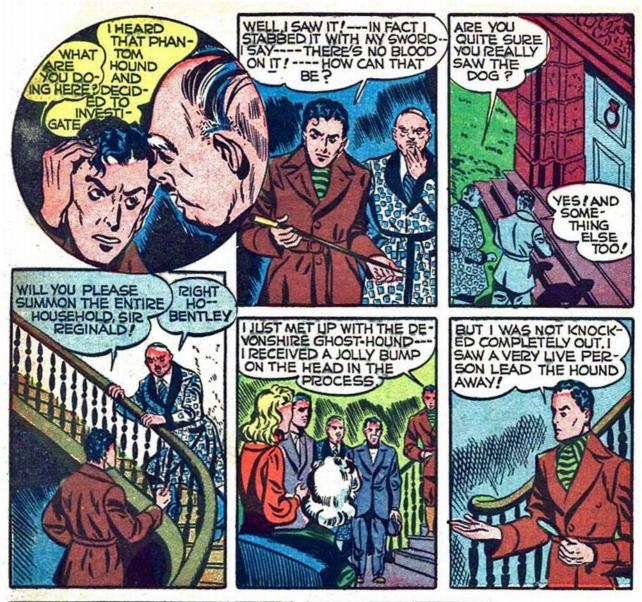
















THE CULPRIT! ---

- I. LADY AGATHA
- 2. CHRISTINE
- 3. SIR REGINALD
- 4. ROGER, THE CARETAKER
- 5. SIR CLAUDE

MARK YOUR CHOICE ALONGSIDE OF ONE OF THE NAMES ---NOW TURN THE PAGE FOR THE SOLU-TION!









































































GLASS EYE ...

NOW THAT



EXACTLY! THAT

MEAN ANYTHING

BUT DO SOME -

MAY OR MAY NOT

I THINK I

WANT ME TO

GET A FINGER-

KNOW WHAT

YOU MEAN. YOU



































BUT BEFORE EMMA CAN ANSWER, THE



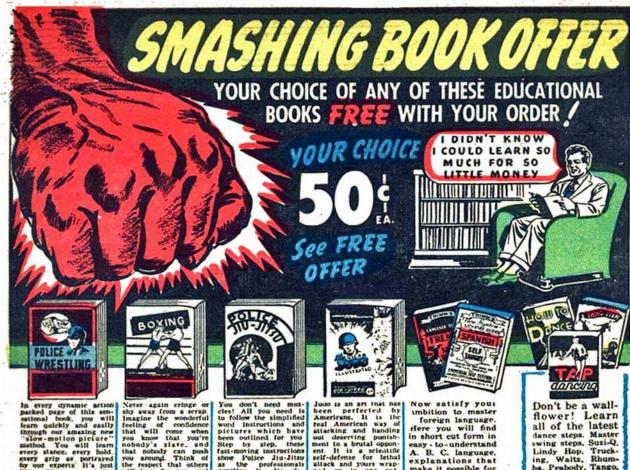












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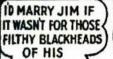
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# OR NO COST



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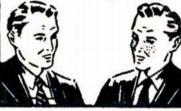




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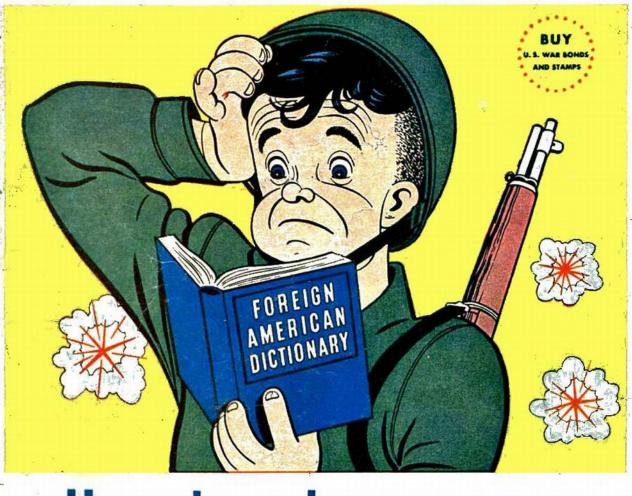
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